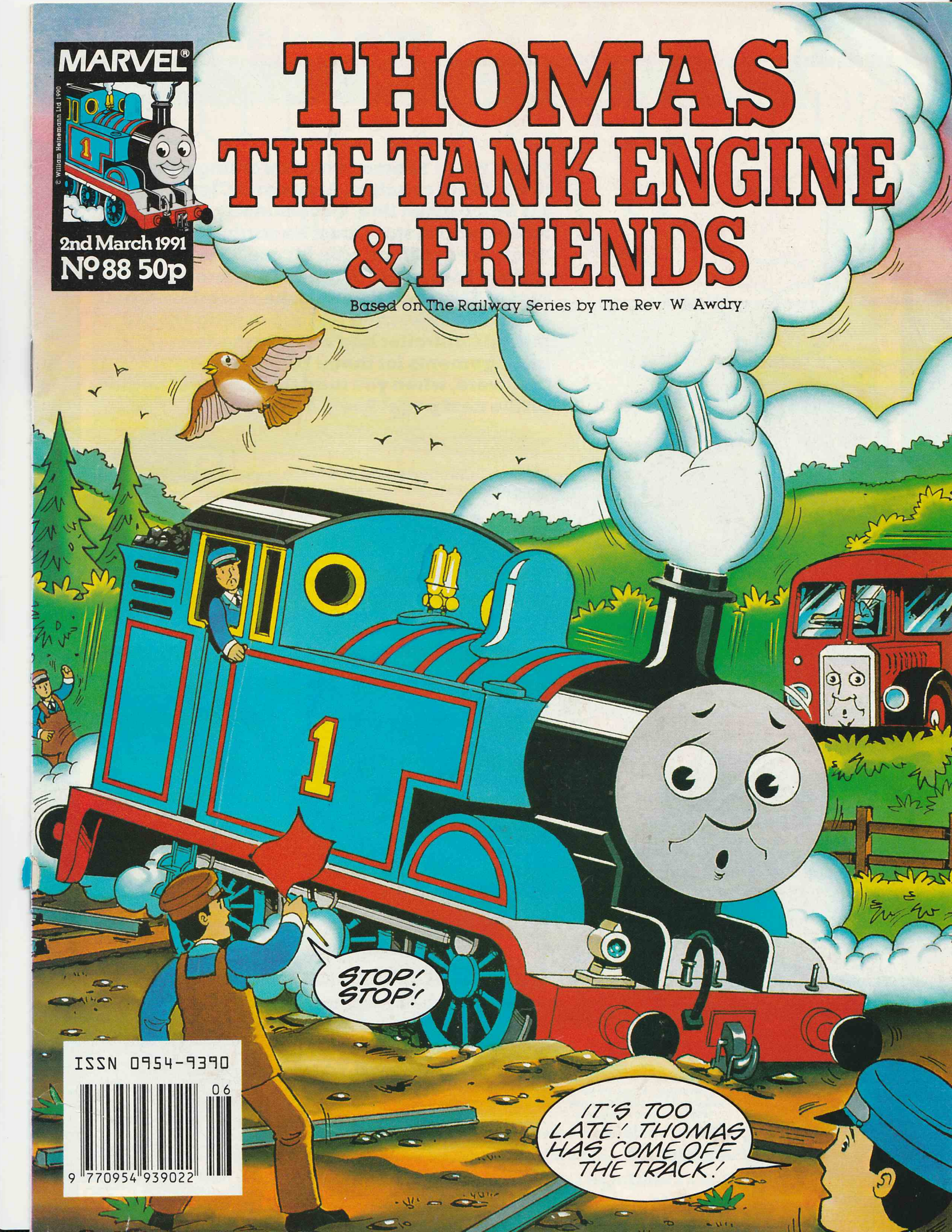
MARVEL®
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2nd March 1991
No 88 50p
THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry
STOP! STOP!
IT'S TOO LATE! THOMAS HAS COME OFF THE TRACK!
ISSN 0954-9390
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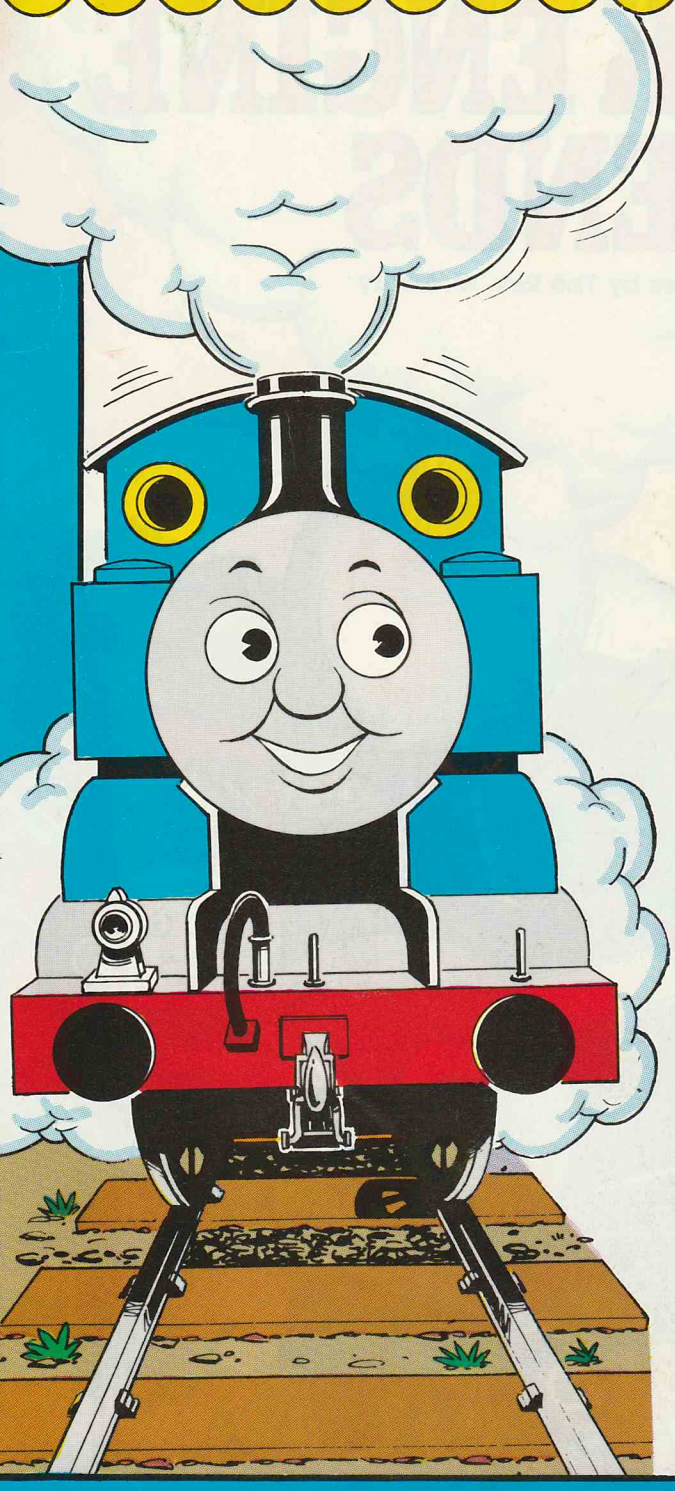
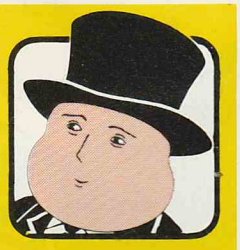
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



Peep! Peep! Thomas enjoys working with his two faithful coaches, Annie and Clarabel, on his own branch line. Occasionally, maintenance work must be carried out on the lines, to keep them safe for use. One day, railway inspectors arrived and announced that part of Thomas's line must be closed for repair. Thomas was worried for his passengers, but the Fat Controller had already made arrangements for them! You can find out what they were, when you read the story that begins on the next page! Peep! Peep!

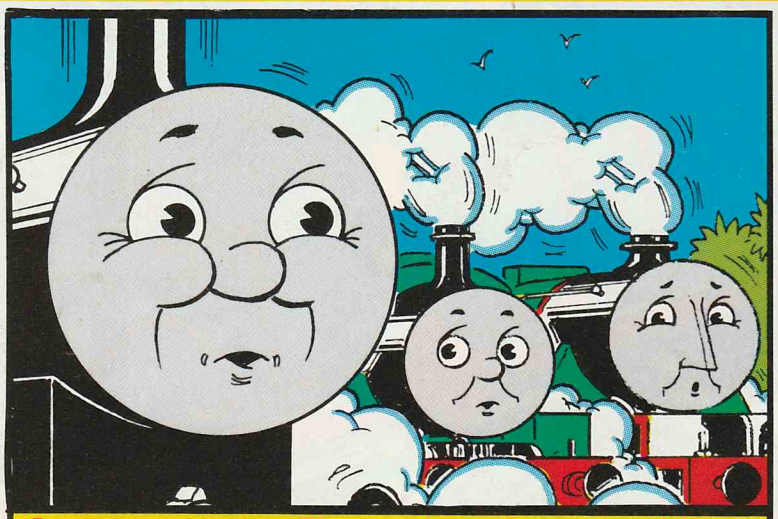
HELLO THERE!



The Fat Controller would like to say a very special hello to the following readers. . .

Christopher Ward (29129), aged 5, **Ben Fletton**, aged 2, from Lincoln, **Simon Edmunds**, aged 7, **Philip Woods (34489)**, **James Hearson (33718)** and **Max Grattan**, aged 4, from California.

If you would like to receive a special mention on this page, please send your details to the Fat Controller at the address shown on the letters page. Don't forget to include your membership number too!



In our next issue: The engines have heard that Edward is to be scrapped! Can this be true?!

THOMAS TOKEN

JOIN THE THOMAS CLUB!

If you would like to become a member of the **Thomas Club** and receive a splendid membership card, just collect 3 tokens like the one adjacent to this section. Send one **red**, **yellow** and **green** token together with one completed coupon (below), listing your details plus stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Name ..... **Age** .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... **Date of birth** .....

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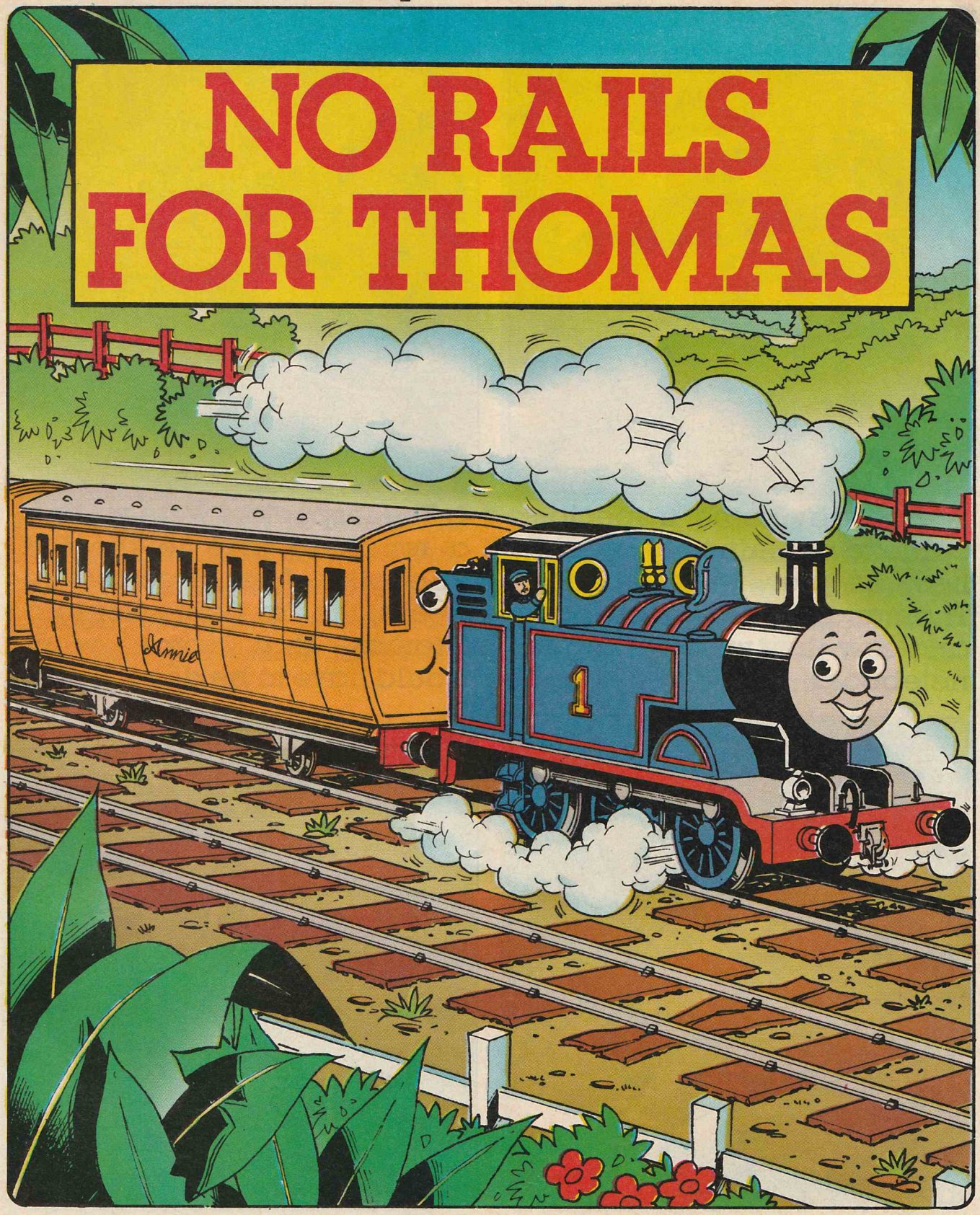
ABC
MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

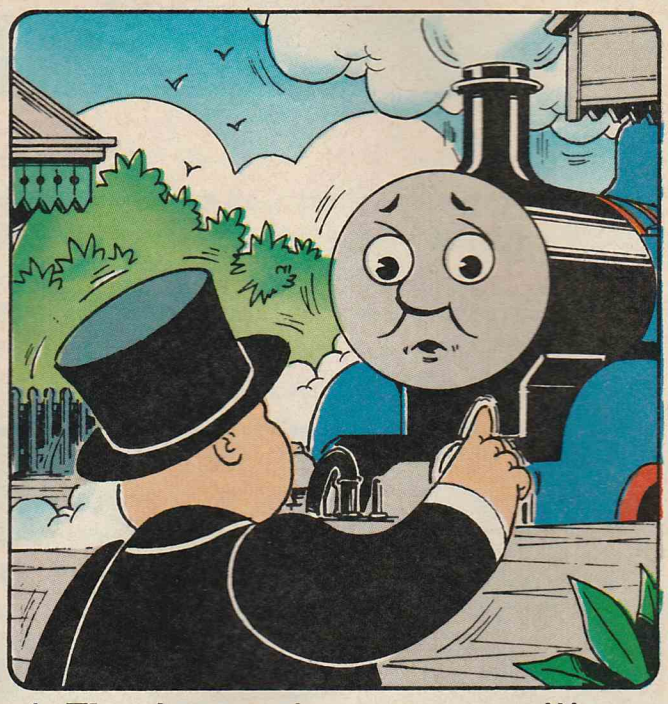
A listen and look story!



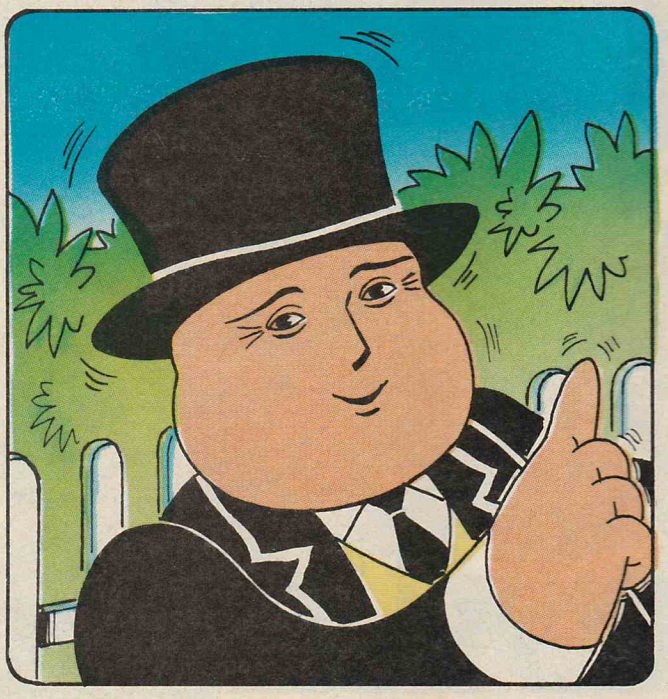
1. Thomas liked working on his branch line. There was nothing he enjoyed more than his journeys with Annie and Clarabel. He prided himself on pulling them well.

2. But like all the lines on the Fat Controller's railway, Thomas's branch line had to be maintained. The rails and sleepers sometimes needed to be repaired or replaced.

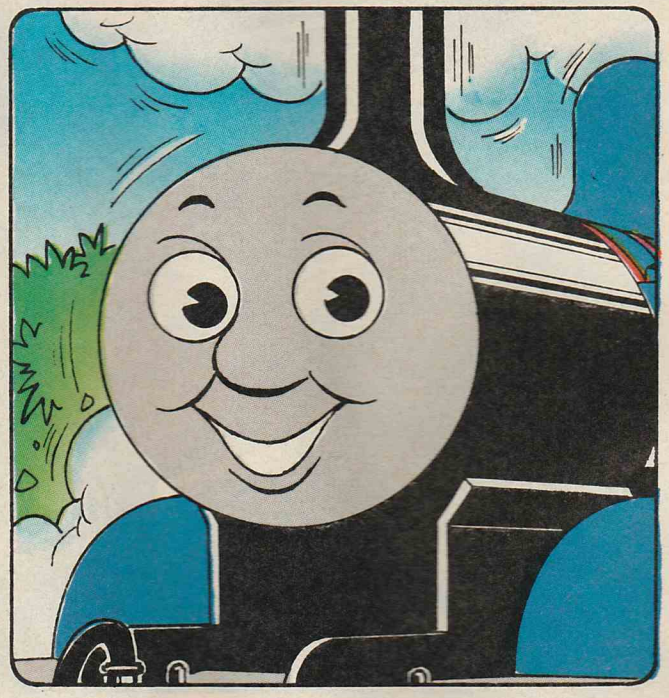
3. One day some inspectors came to examine the branch line. As they were working Thomas steamed past them and saw they were writing in notebooks.



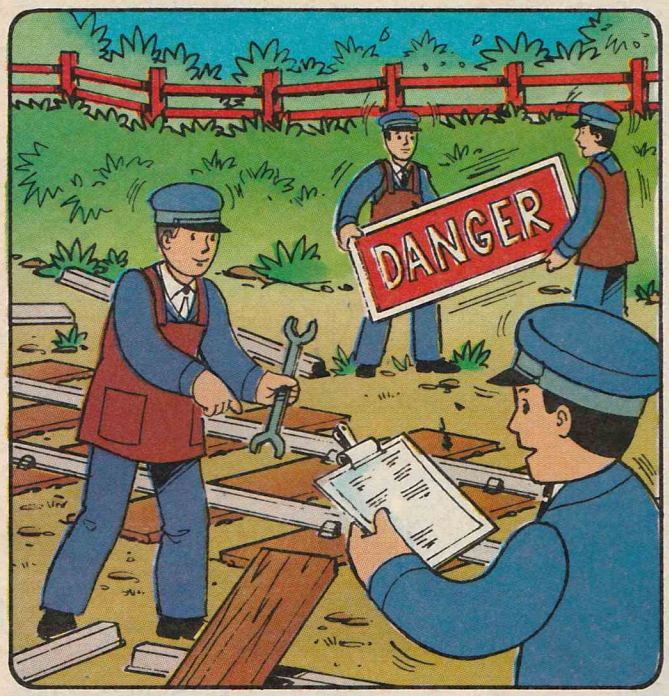
4. The inspectors were writing a report to give to the Fat Controller. After a couple of weeks, the Fat Controller told Thomas that some work would have to be done.



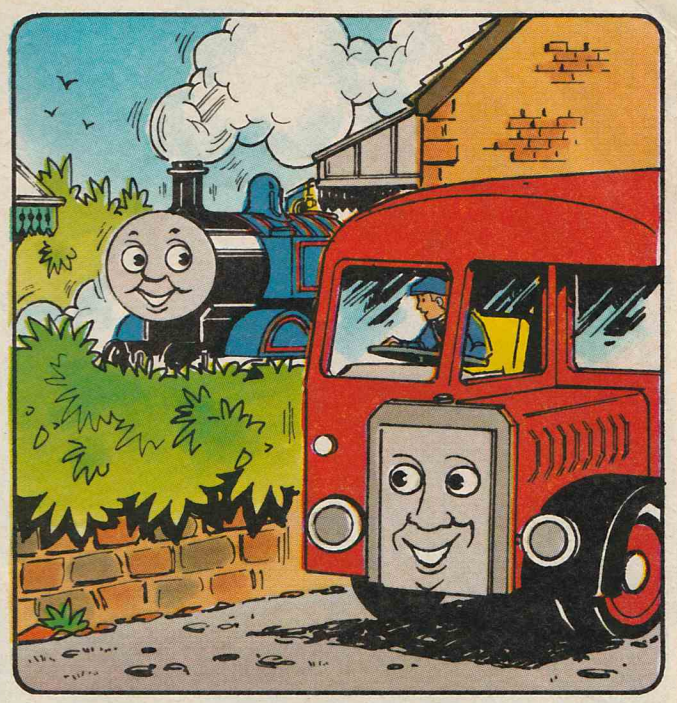
5. "We shall have to close the line between the last two stations," said the Fat Controller. "But don't worry, Thomas. We shall look after your passengers!"



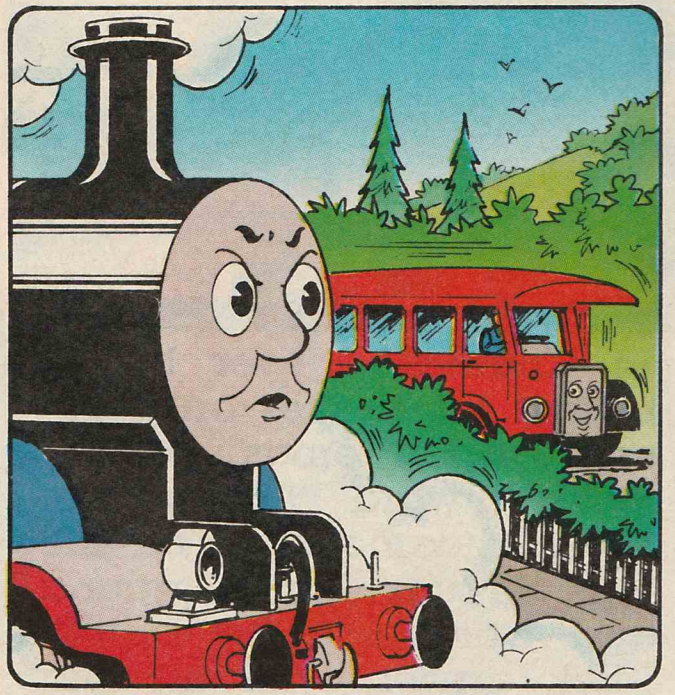
6. "I've made arrangements with your friend Bertie the Bus," he explained. Thomas was very pleased. He and Bertie had often worked together before.



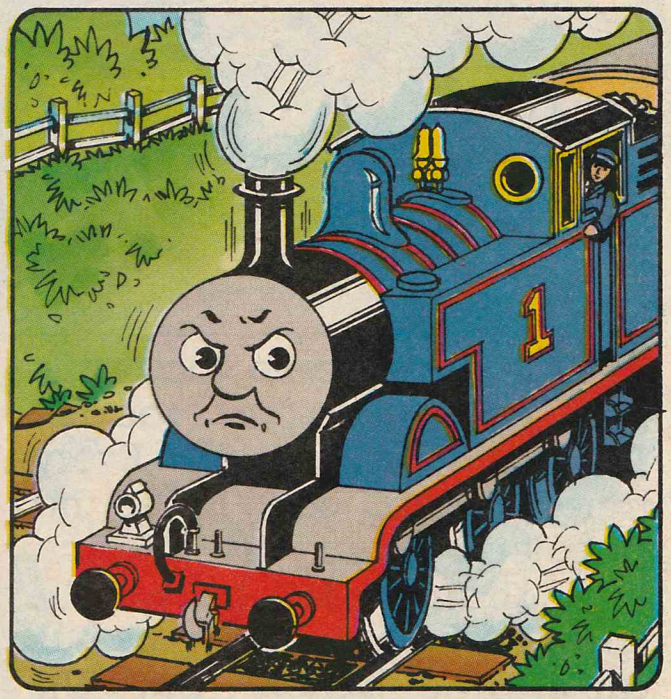
7. The men went to work on the line and notices were put up at all the stations to let the passengers know what was happening. Thomas met Bertie at the station.



8. "Hullo, Bertie", called Thomas. "How are you?" "I'm fine," said Bertie. "I'm ready to treat your passengers to a ride on a decent road. It is a shame about your rails!"



9. "There's nothing wrong with my rails!" snorted Thomas. "Then why are they repairing them?" teased Bertie. "Roads are truly the best!"



10. Bertie's teasing made Thomas very cross indeed. He couldn't forget what Bertie had said! "Roads are not always the best," Thomas puffed to himself.

11. "I'll show Bertie that rails are as good as roads!" Thomas grumbled. Every time Thomas saw Bertie he boasted about his branch line. Thomas felt he had to show Bertie how really useful an engine could be. Up ahead, Thomas saw workmen on the line. The rails were up, just beyond the station.

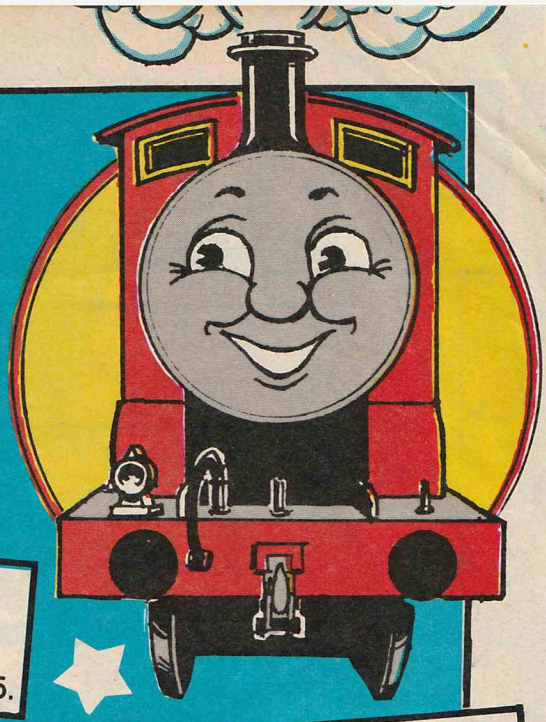
12. Thomas's driver hadn't locked his brakes on properly and Thomas eagerly rolled forward. **Whumph!** But Thomas came right off the rails! He sunk into the ground and was stuck there until Duck arrived with the big crane to rescue him! "Oh dear," sighed Thomas. "Buses need roads and engines need rails!"

THE END

In our next issue: Ready and willing!

JAMES'S JAPES

Have you got a favourite joke to tell James? If so, then why not send it to him at the address shown on the letters page?! The best jokes we receive will be printed in some of our future issues!



Why do humming birds hum?
They can't remember the words!
Adam, aged 7.

Why did the banana go to hospital?
He wasn't peeling well!
Stella, aged 5.

Why do cows wear bells?
Because their horns don't work!
Michael, aged 6.

What has four legs but cannot walk?
A bed!
Sean, aged 5.

What does a kettle suffer from?
Boils!
Anthony, aged 5.

What is the wettest animal in the world?
A rain dear!
David, aged 4.

How do you make a sausage roll?
Push it down a hill!
Gary, aged 7.

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Are you finding it difficult obtaining your copy of the **Thomas Poster Magazine** from your newsagents? Then look no further! Simply complete the coupon below and send it to us together with your remittance, and we will send you **Thomas's splendid Poster Magazine** within 28 days!

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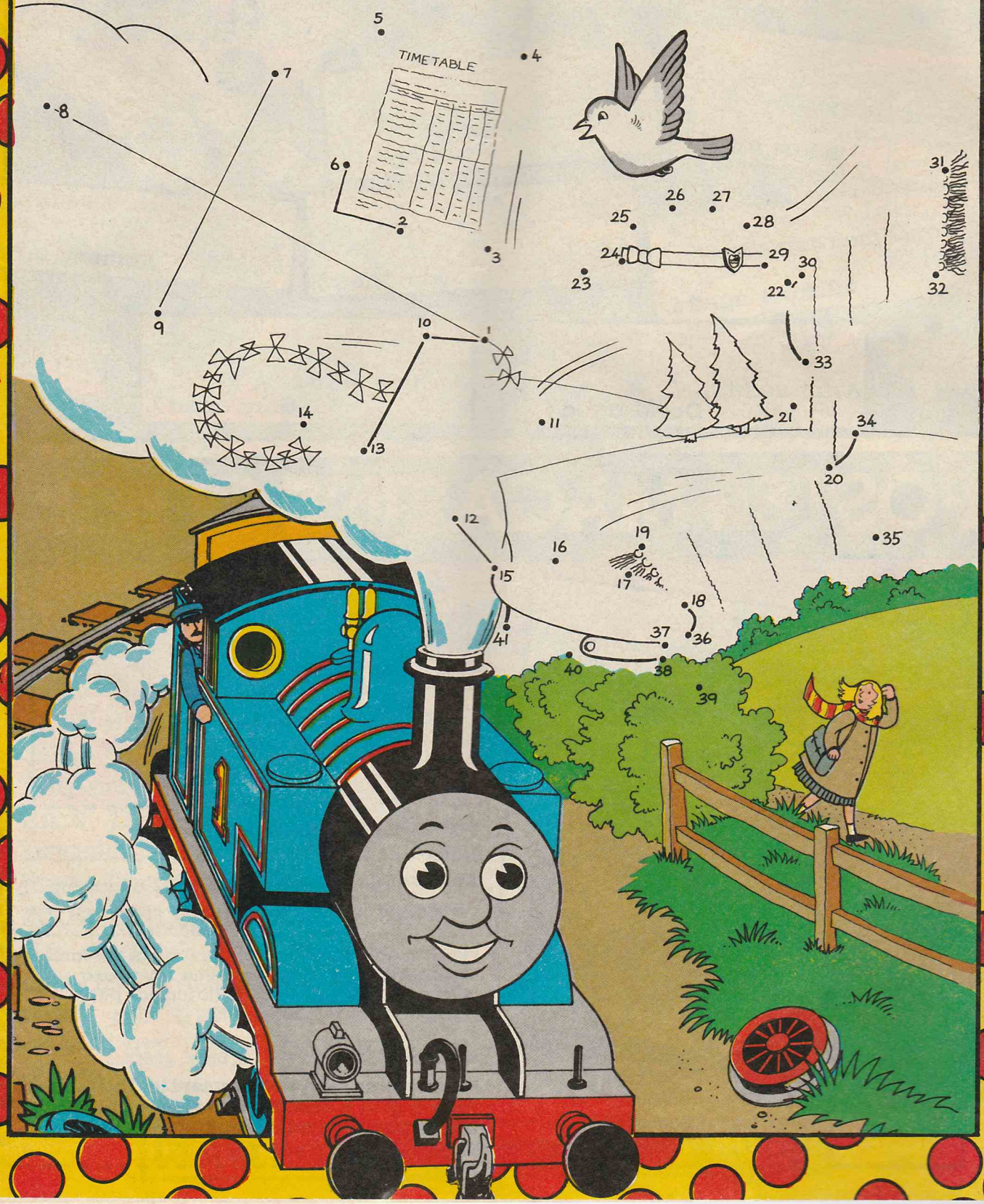
Signature ..... *Date* .....

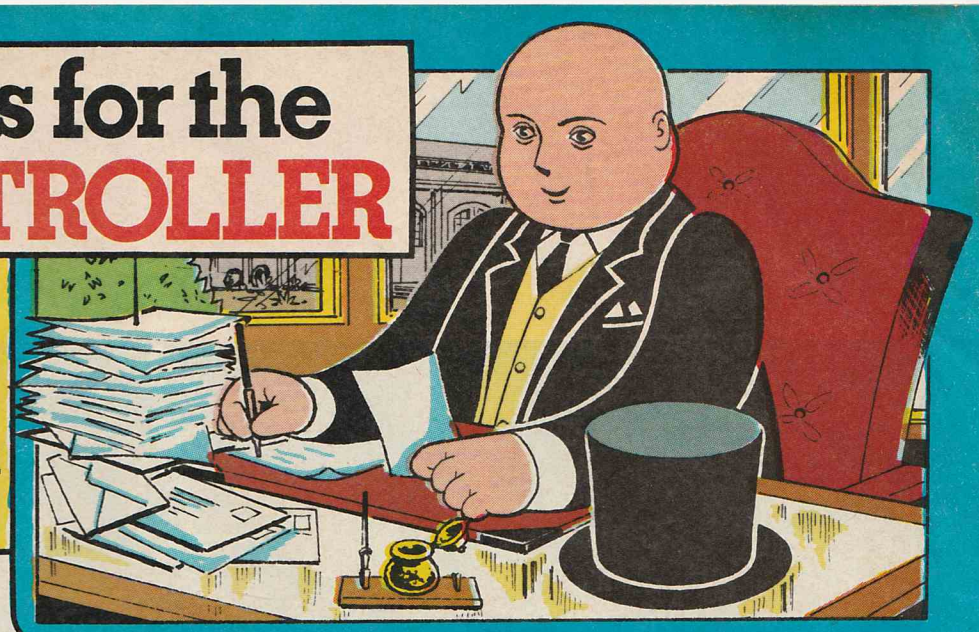
Please return form and payment to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Poster Magazine Offer, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

JOIN THE DOTS!

It's wild and windy weather today
Join the dots to see what's blown away!



Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Last Christmas, Mummy, Daddy and I went for a ride on the Santa Special on Christmas Eve! An engine which looked just like **Thomas the Tank Engine** pulled our train and I received a great big present from Father Christmas!
Love from **David**, aged 5.

How splendid! *I do hope that you enjoyed your charming journey – I am quite sure that you did! You forgot to tell me which present you received, David. Will you write again and let me know?!*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank lunchbox and flask** – from *Bluebird Toys (UK) Ltd.*

MY CHOICE!

Dear Fat Controller,
When my brother David was born, Mummy and Daddy let me choose his second name. I chose James after your fine red engine!
Love from **Stephanie** (34739).

What a splendid choice you made, Stephanie! I have already told James and he was most excited!

OFF TO CREWE!

Dear Fat Controller,
When the engines need repairing, where do they go?
Love from **Karen,** aged 3.

Usually, the engines are repaired in the maintenance shed. Although sometimes, if the repair job is a large one, they are sent away to Crewe for a thorough overhaul!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Adam Zygadbo, Jonathon Wheeler, Nicholas Sponder (34414), Adrian Richard Brown (31492), Martin Ray, Philip Woods (34489), Mark Andrew Jankowski (33407), Melanie Rose (3084), Simon David Shaw, Lewis McDonald, Barnaby Webb (25168), Robert Catlin, Rebecca Curtis, Alexander Hill (33677), Ashley Gray (30207), David Sean Williams, Neil MacLachlan (33562), Scott Anthony Hadden (31577), Kai Joseph Soanes, Stephanie Parker, Edward Carter, Paul Atkins, James Hearson (33718), John A. Davey (30135), Gary McDowell (12602) and Benjamin Nash.

A very special belated birthday greeting goes out from the Fat Controller to **Daniel Gunn,** who celebrated his 1st birthday on 16th February!

If you would like a birthday mention here, just send details on a postcard, at least **nine weeks** in advance. We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our best.

Yours,

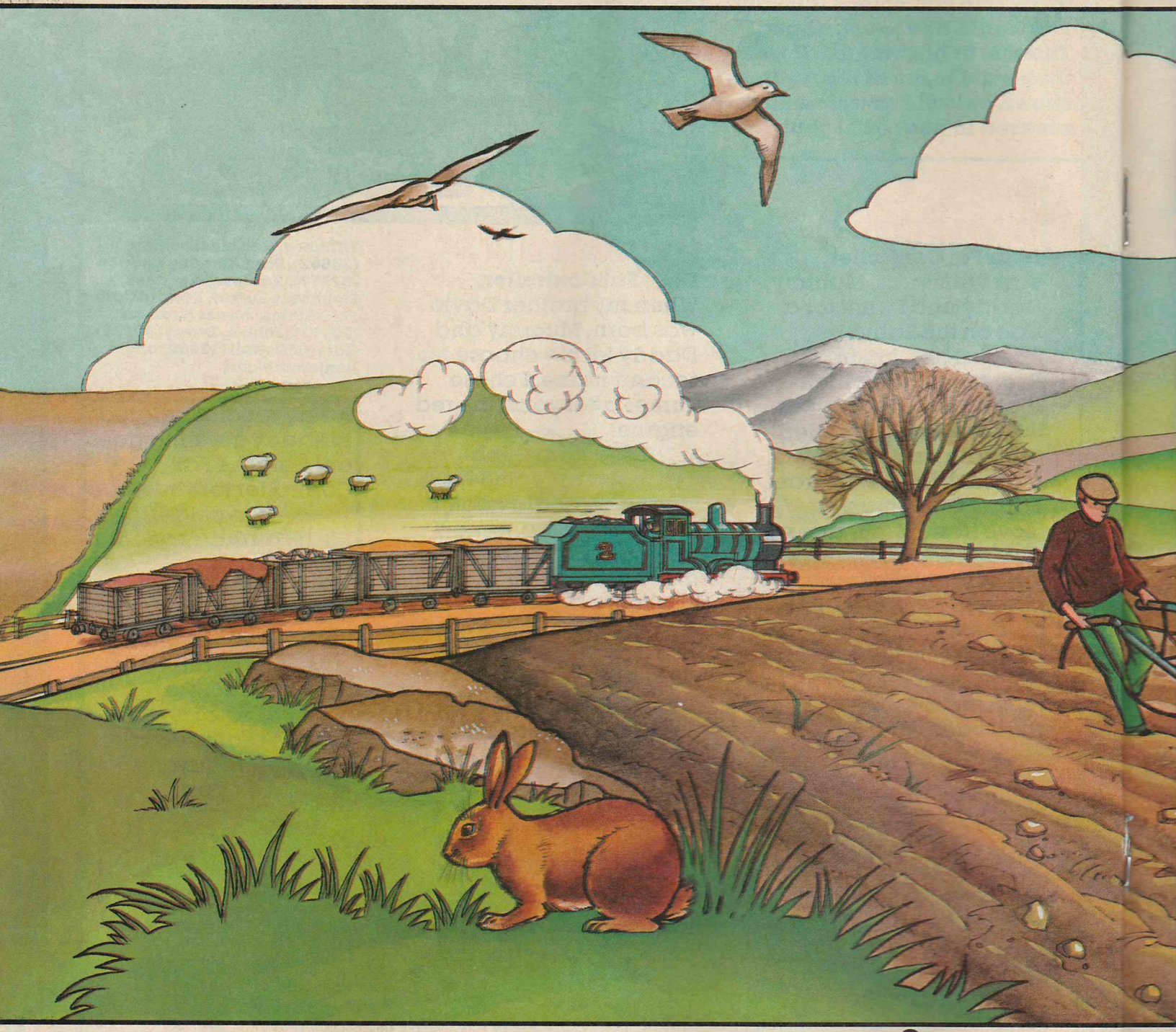
Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

Turning the



Which engine can you see?

What number is he?

How many trucks is he pulling?

What colour is the shire horse?

How is he helpin

Point to the rabb

How many birds

What colour are

ne soil!

elping the farmer?

rabbit!

birds are flying in the sky?

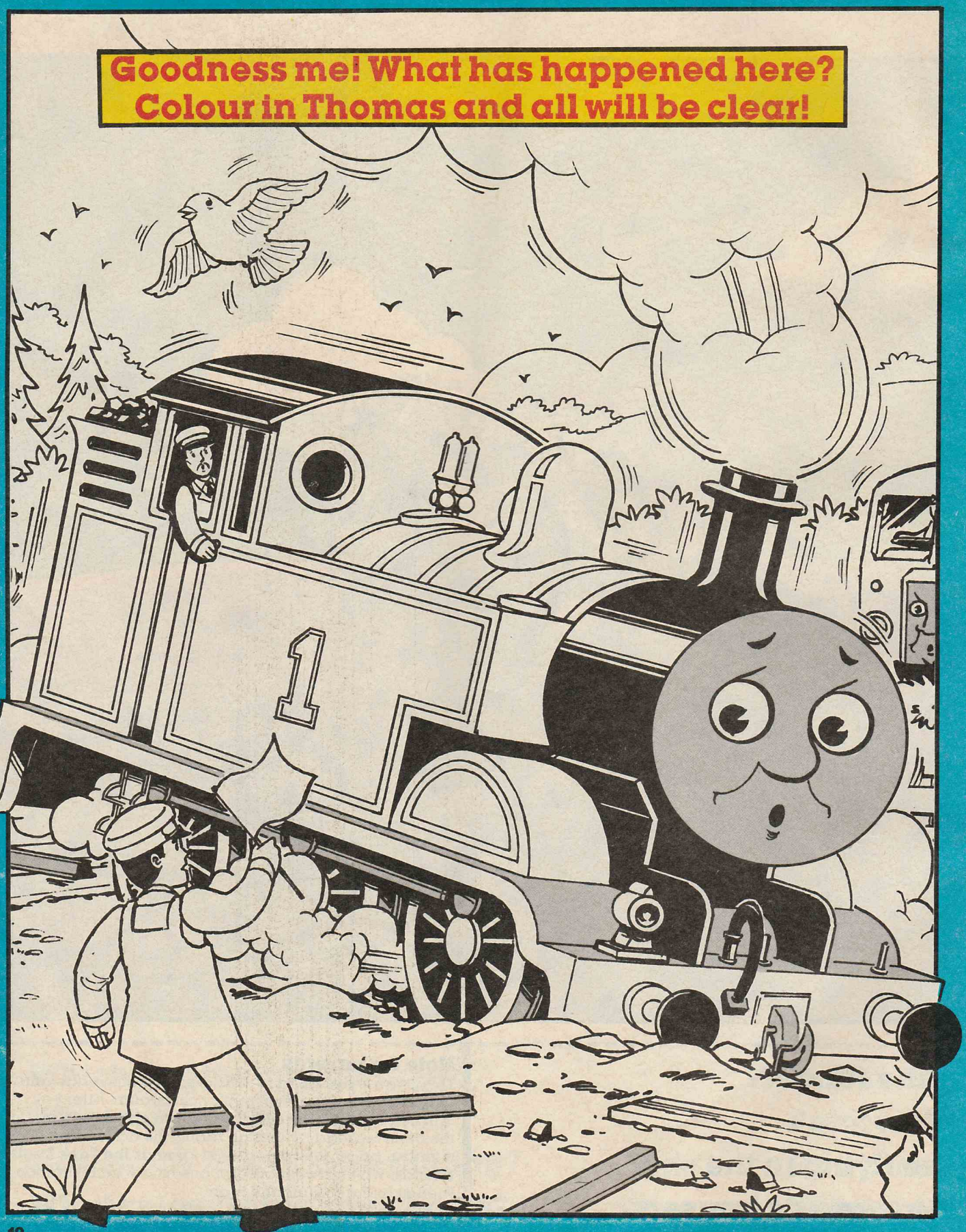
r are the farmer's trousers?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a mural page in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Past the village!

COLOURING TIME!

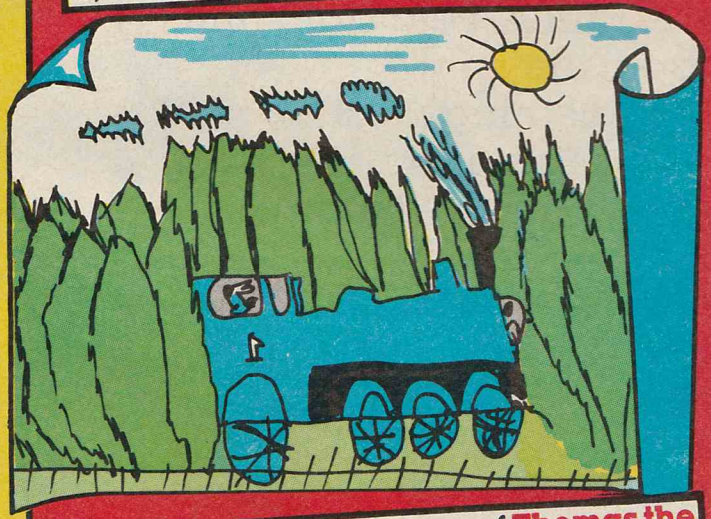


YOUR DRAWINGS
for the Fat Controller

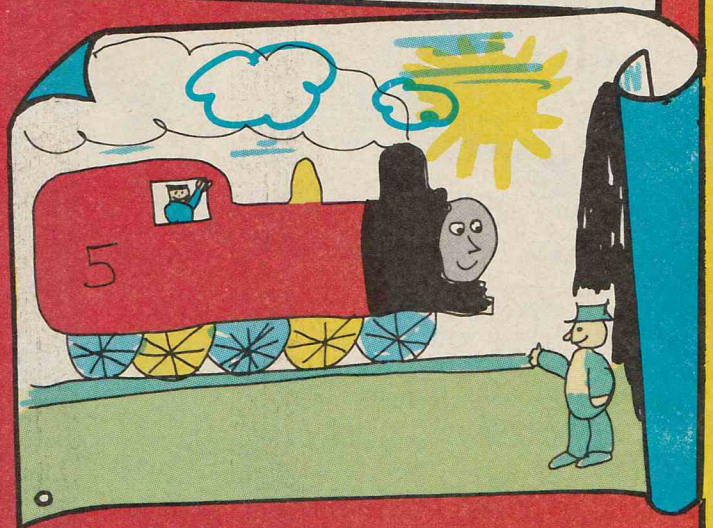
Here are some of the many splendid drawings that you have sent in to us. Can you see your picture?

Gracious me! **Percy the Saddle Tank Engine** looks very happy indeed as he continues on down his line. This smart picture was sent in by **David Lloyd**, aged 6, from Worcester.

Here is a charming picture of **Gordon the Big Express Engine** steaming past a huge garden, full of pretty flowers. This splendid drawing was sent in by **Owen Morgan**, aged 6, from Gwent.



Here is a splendid picture of **Thomas the Tank Engine** happily puffing past a big forest. This colourful picture was sent by **Jeremy Spencer**, aged 6, from Eire.



Can you see the Fat Controller waving to **James the Red Engine's** driver? James is just about to steam into a dark tunnel! This super painting was sent in by **Steven Short**, aged 9, from Hull.

Thank you all for sending in your pictures – we are sorry, but we could only print a couple in this issue! If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to:
The Fat Controller (Picture Page), The Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

A read-aloud story!

STOP!

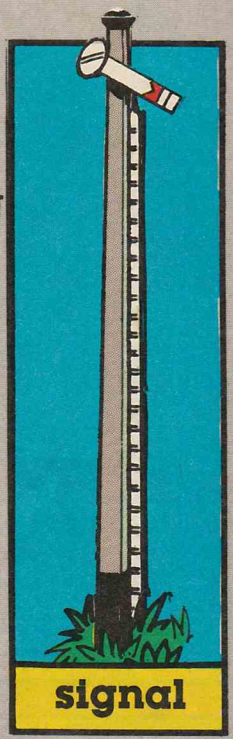
Thomas was pulling a light goods train along the mainline. "Important goods! Important goods!" he sang. The trucks groaned and rattled behind him.

Thomas's driver kept a look out for the signals as he went along. Most of them were pointing down. This meant that it was safe to continue along the line.

"Peep! Peep!" whistled Thomas, excitedly. Thomas didn't like stopping at signals.

Very soon, Thomas came to another signal that was pointing up.

This meant that Thomas had to slow down and stop.



signal

Thomas waited, but the signal didn't change. A little while later, Percy arrived just behind Thomas, pulling 'The Local'.

"This signal won't change," Thomas told Percy.

"Maybe there's been an accident up ahead!" suggested Percy.

"Peep! Peep!" came another whistle. "Move along there!" It was James. Percy told him about the signal.

"Something must be wrong," said James's driver. "It could be a landslide on the line!"

"Hur – ry! Hur – ry! Hur – ry! . . . " sang Gordon, pulling up slowly behind James with the Express.

James told Gordon about the signal.

"It could be a fallen tree," suggested Gordon. But whatever it was, the signal didn't change and the engines couldn't go. The passengers began to get impatient.

Just then there came a loud "Pip! Pip! Pip! Let me through!" It was Toby the Tram Engine. Gordon told him all about the signal.

"It could be a fallen tree," said Gordon.

"Or a landslide," suggested James.

"Or an accident," added Percy,

"Pip! Pip!" whistled Toby impatiently. "Or it could be a broken signal! I've brought the men to repair it! Now please move along and let us through!"

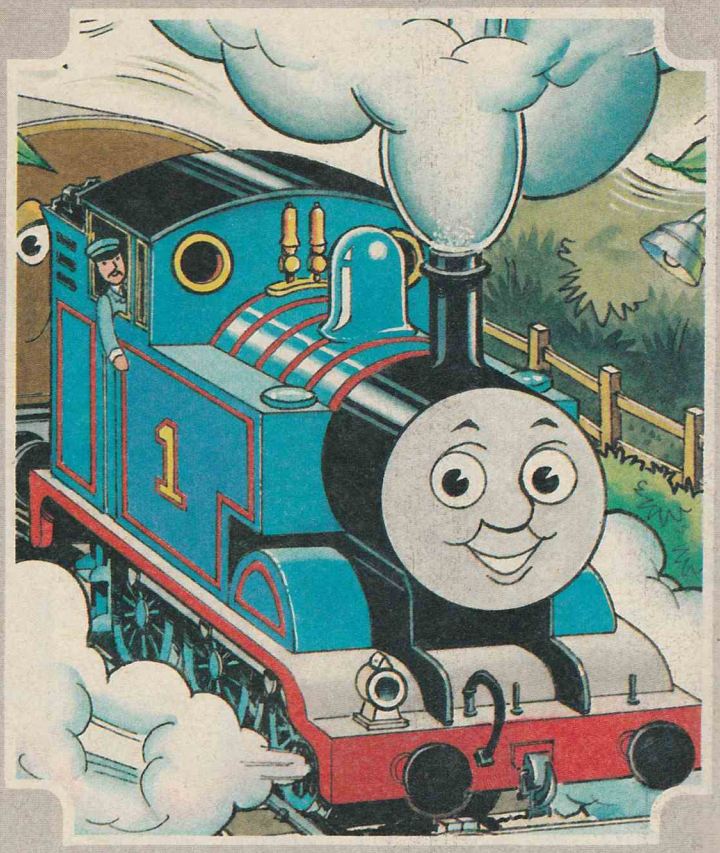
"A broken signal?" asked Gordon.

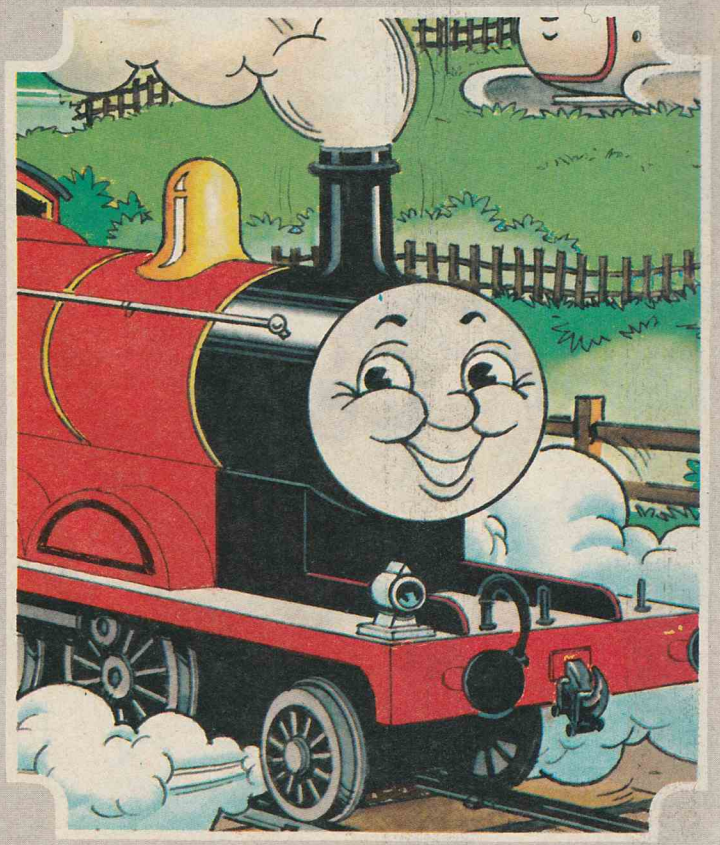
"A broken signal!" exclaimed James.

"A broken signal," sighed Percy.

"Important goods! Important goods!" sang Thomas as he hurried along the little line again. There was no need to stop and the signalmen had told the engines that it was safe to go. It was only a broken signal that had held them up in the first place!

Subscribe...





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Signature ..... Expiry date .....

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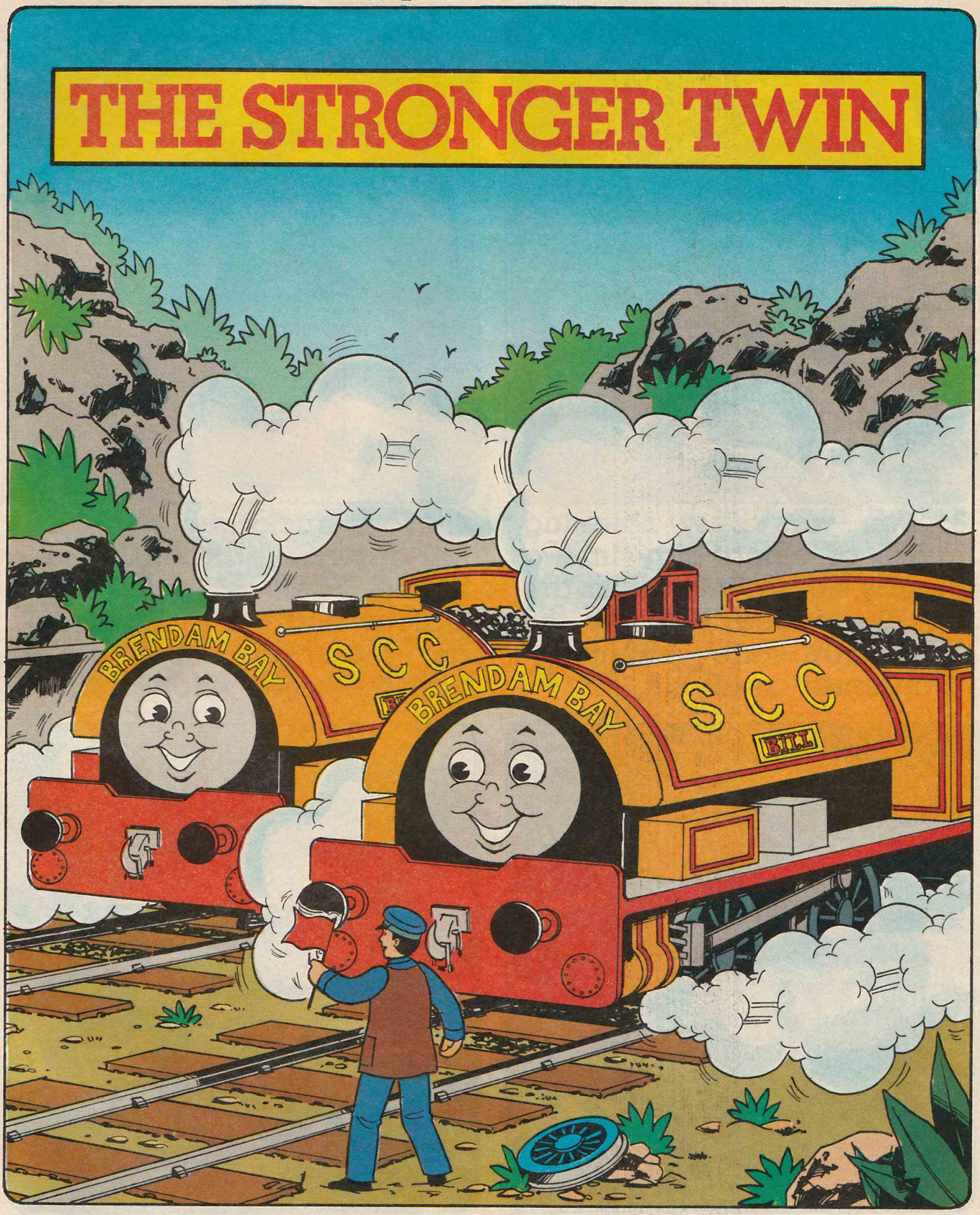
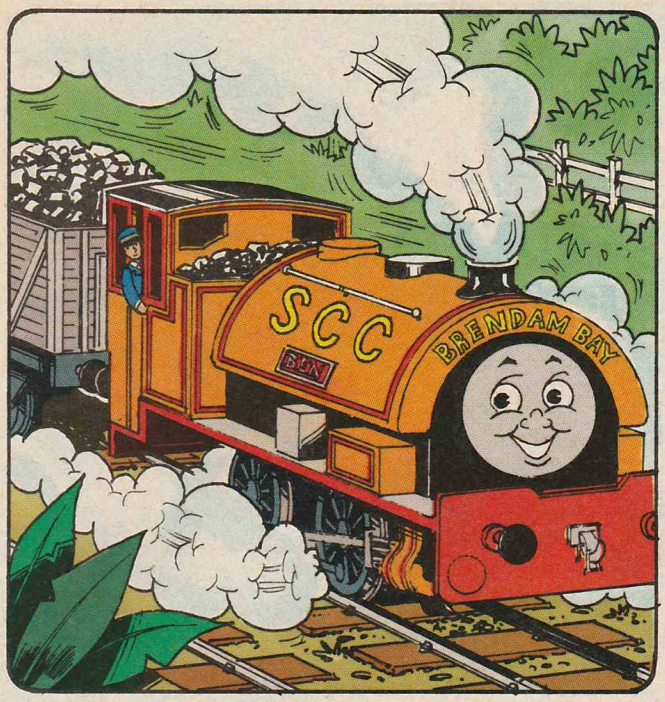
A listen and look story!

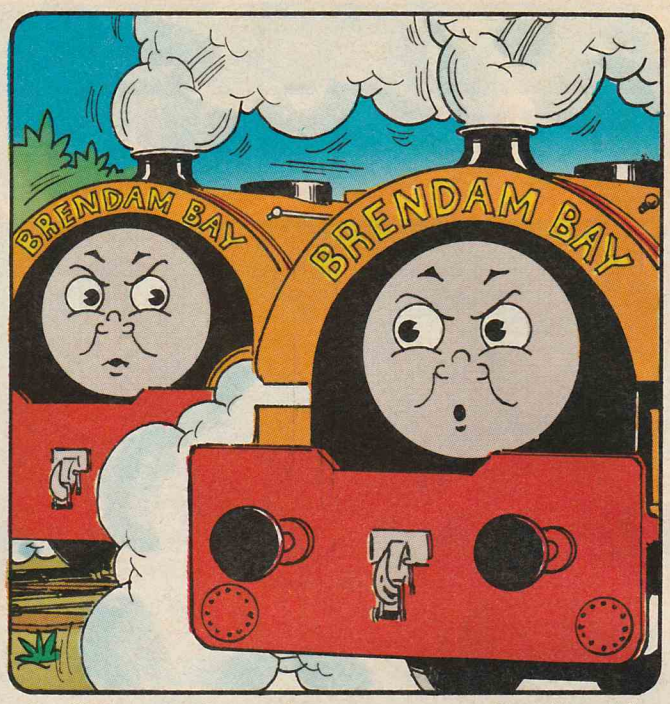


1. Bill and Ben are the saddle tank engine twins. They are exactly the same in shape and colour. In fact, the only way to tell them apart is by their nameplates.

2. One day Bill and Ben were working hard in the yard by the clay pits. Bill was being very cheeky. "Come along, Ben!" he whistled. "You're always so slow!"

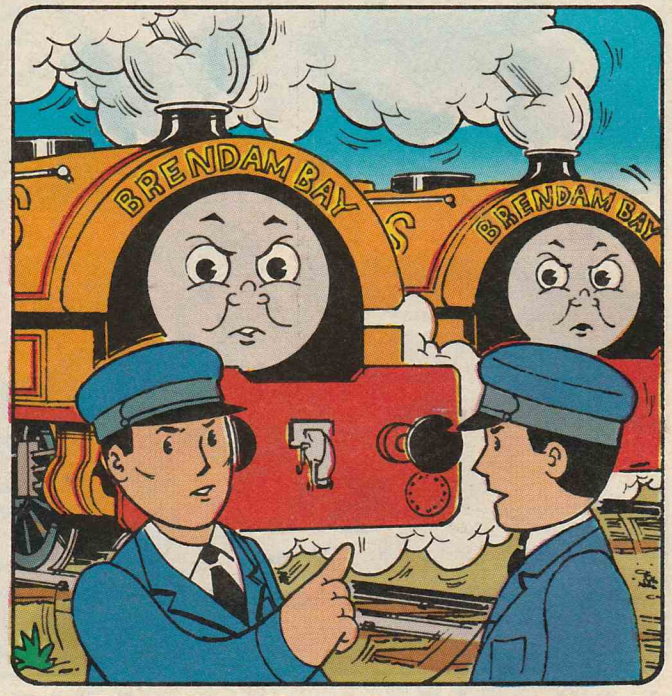


3. Ben was busy shunting trucks of china clay into a nearby siding. "My trucks are full!" he called. "Not like the ones you are shunting!" "Nonsense!" said Bill.

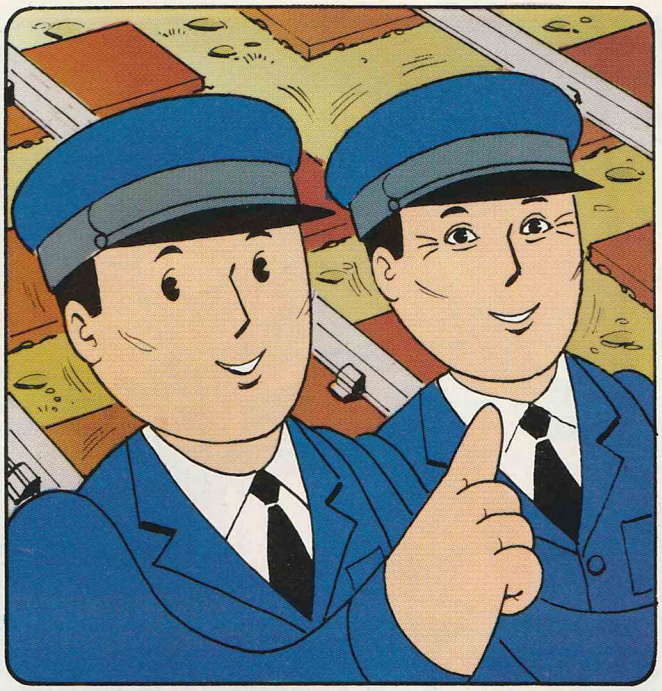


4. "Your trucks are only half full anyway," said Bill. "Pah!" huffed Ben. "You're just jealous that I'm much stronger than you!" "But, we're both the same!" retorted Bill.

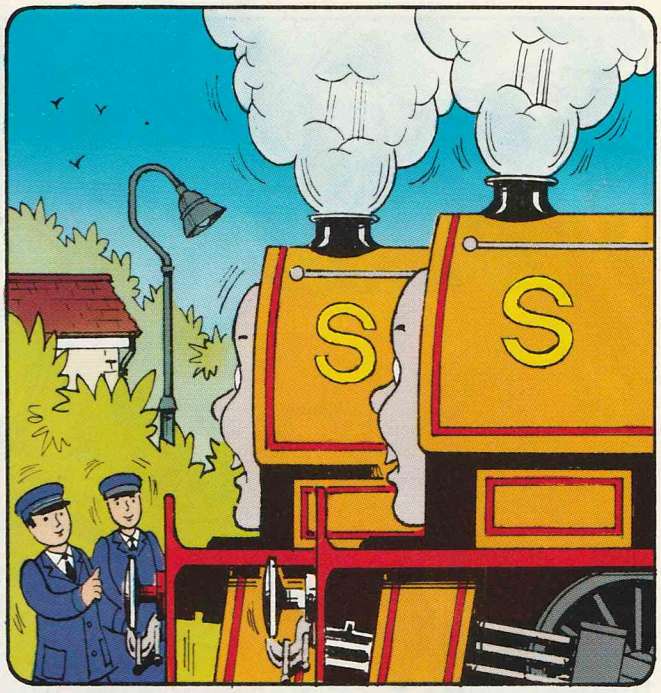
5. The twins continued to grumble throughout the whole afternoon. They bumped the trucks and spilt clay everywhere. Their drivers were very cross indeed.



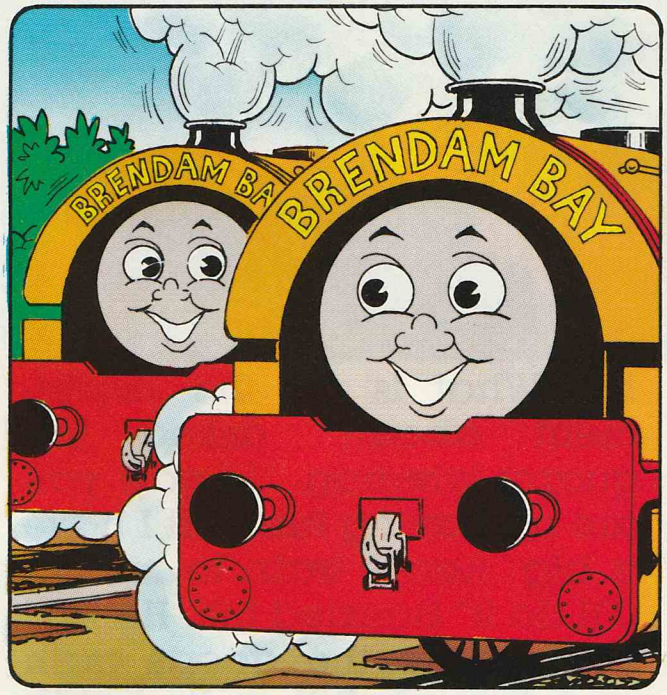
6. Finally, the drivers asked Bill and Ben why they were misbehaving. "Bill says I'm slow," grumbled Ben. "And Ben says I'm not very strong," shouted Bill.



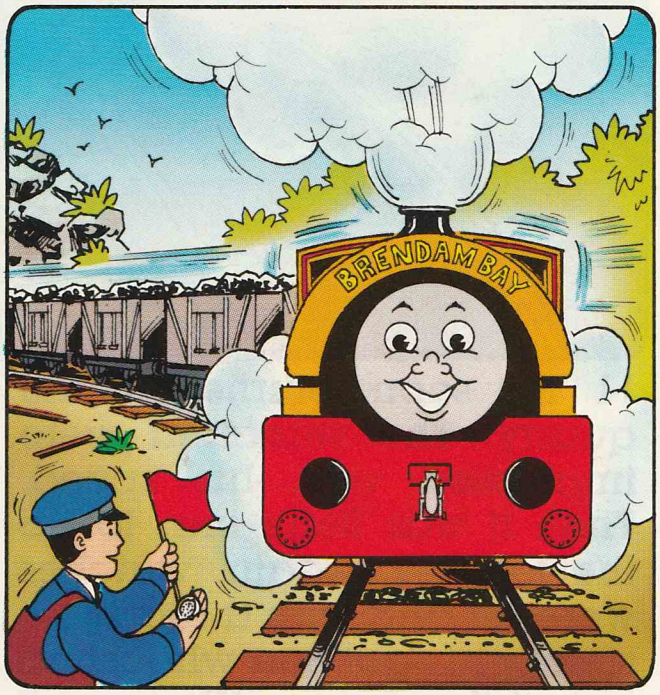
7. "Being saddle tank twins you are as strong and fast as each other," replied the drivers. "But, if you want a competition to see which of you is best, we have an idea".



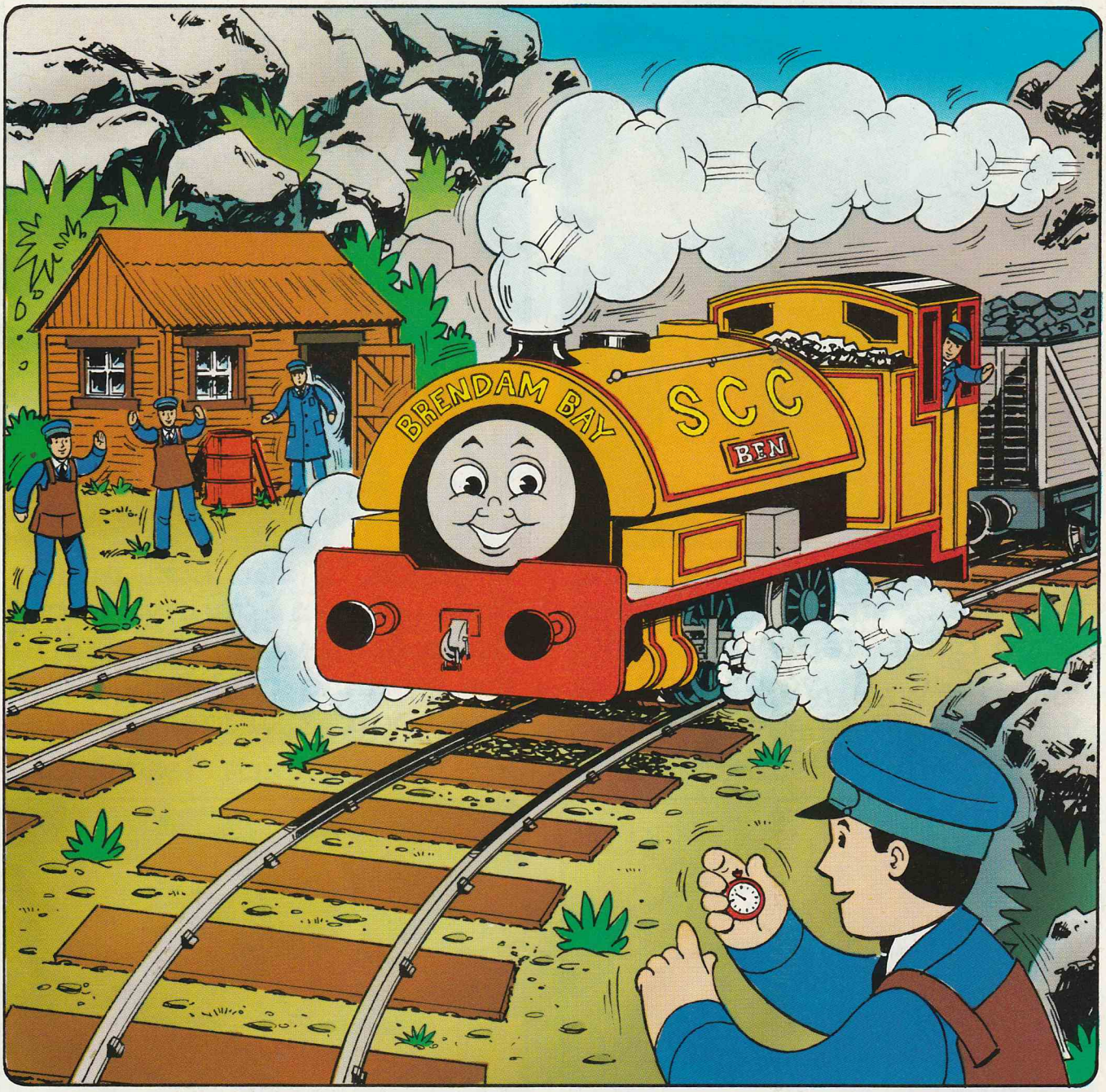
8. "Each of you can pull a train of ten quarry trucks down to the harbour. Bill in the morning and Ben in the afternoon," suggested the drivers.



9. "Meanwhile, the workmen will time how long it takes each of you to make the journey. Then we will know who is the fastest and the strongest," they told the twins.



10. So, next morning Bill made lots of steam ready for his journey. The workmen set their watches and . . . ready . . . steady . . . go! Bill whooshed out of the quarry.



11. Bill soon returned to the quarry. The workmen were impressed with his speed. Then it was Ben's turn to do the journey. Again, watches were set and with a ready . . . steady . . . go! Ben whooshed out of the quarry. "You won't be as fast as me," tooted Bill. Later, when Ben returned, they found he had made the journey just as quickly as Bill.

12. "What is all the excitement about?" asked the quarry foreman. "I know you are all having fun, but I have a big, heavy train to move." "I'll do it" boasted Bill. He was coupled to the goods train and though Bill pulled with all his strength the train didn't move. "I need Ben to help me," laughed Bill. So together the twins succeeded.

THE END

In our next issue: Scrap!